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**1962/10/29**

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# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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TOPOL PRIORITY

ACTION: Ambassador PARIS

RPT INFO: All NATO capitals  
Ambassador MOSCOW  
USSR BERLIN 424

REVIEWED BY: 11/14/88 DATE  
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In next few days Department plans use Ambassadorial Group on Berlin as vehicle for briefing British, French and Germans on Cuban developments. Reports of these briefings may be utilized by USRO for briefing NAC Permreps. Other addressees may utilize reports for briefing host government at appropriately high level. These reports will contain sensitive information and addressees should stress caution about leaks.

At today's meeting, Thompson chairman, Hilsman, INR, reported aerial reconnaissance of 27th showed work on missile sites continuing at rapid pace with efforts being made at dispersion and camouflage. We virtually certain all personnel at sites are Soviet. One sighting of Soviet military insignia made. Further reconnaissance being made today, as UN not yet able take over surveillance function.

Drafted by: EUR.JKHolloway:ml  
10/29/82

Telegraphic transmittal and classification approved by: William R. Tyler  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Clearances:

BTF - Mr. Hillenbrand  
INR - Mr. Hilsman  
EUR - Mr. Tyler

SOV - Mr. Guthrie (in substance)  
RPM - Mr. Popper (in substance)  
S/S - Mr. Weiner

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFORMATION

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Thompson reported U Thant leaving for Cuba tomorrow with UN inspection personnel and communication equipment. US will provide SYG with detailed information on site locations in effort get early verification of dismantling. ~~US considering suspending quarantine for duration~~ U Thant visit as UN inspectors will be at ports to check incoming cargo. any excuse not Aim of suspension would be to deprive Cuban government of ~~station during~~ to give cooperation to SYG. station ~~xxxxxxx~~ If such decision made, picket ships will stay on ~~anyxxxxxx~~ during suspension. ~~xxxxxxxgivexxxxxxcooperationxxxxxxSYGx~~

In response to French question, Thompson noted ~~three~~ possible explanations of discrepancy between original Khrushchev offer of dismantling weapons in return for assurance US non-interference Cuba and subsequent letter which offered Turkey-Cuba exchange on missile removals:

1. First letter possibly written by Khrushchev without authority Presidium. No real evidence for this, although style of first letter suggests Khrushchev authorship.

2. Sovs may have thought after first letter that they recognized hints of Turkey-Cuba deal in Lippmann column and speech of Austrian Foreign Minister, so they attempted raise price.

3. Second letter possibly designed put pressure on US to accept first offer by showing that price ~~could go higher.~~

Thompson explained US backgrounding press that we are cautious about

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Soviet withdrawal, but in no case are we encouraging any crowing or ~~gloating~~ gloating over what appears to be Soviet defeat. We believe that if Khrushchev has lost he will be less likely take a tough line on Berlin, although by same token he will also be in no position make concessions on Berlin. Therefore, we do not wish draw attention to Berlin at this moment. This particularly applicable to plebiscite proposal. Knappstein promised full Allied consultation on plebiscite.

Both Thompson and Nitze stressed US belief that we would probably be on verge full-scale nuclear war if it were established that Sovs not dismantling weapons.

Although we have had not had complete report on U Thant-Kuznetsov talks, there does not appear to be any Soviet block in his instructions. Thompson said US welcomed Kuznetsov's appointment as he fully conversant all elements Sov policy.

Lord Hood reported UK press guidance parallels US line.

Knappstein gave report from German Embassy Havana on conscription of militia and formation defense units. Recalcitrants reportedly to be shot on spot.

On Berlin matters, Group agreed invite LIVE OAK General Baker to Washington for consultation on Berlin planning.

Next briefing tentatively set for tomorrow.

END

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